with yellow pages from 1988 to 1992 and after bringing out the issues for the years 1988 to 1989, the contractor failed to bring out the subsequent issues and contract was terminated and their security deposit forfeited.

(b) T.A.C. Calcutta has adversely criticised delay in issuing telephone directory.

Privatisation of Telecom Services

42. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to demonopolise and privatise telecommunication services in the country;

(b) if so, what is the contemplated revised structure thereof; and

(c) the reasons to which this step is attributable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. However, value-added services have been opened up for private sector participation on a licence from Government.

(b) and (c) Government are not contemplating to privatise the basic service at this juncture.

Defaults of Automatic Computerised Telephone installations

43. SHRI M.A. BABY:
SHRI TINDIVANAN G. VENKATRAMAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that automatic computerised installations in telephones are not working satisfactorily;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the telephone Department has been the target of criticism from all States due to defaults occurring in phone connection frequently at short intervals;

(c) if so, what steps Government contemplates to revamp the shortcomings to the satisfaction of consumers;

(d) what is the total income and expenditure in 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(e) what is profit and loss account for these years; and

(f) what is the amount spent for maintenance per year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) However, measures, as detailed in statement-I, have been taken by the Department of Telecom, to minimise the faults occurring on phone connections and improve public perception.

(d) to (f) Details as per statement-II & III.

Statement-I

— Phasing out of old and life expired electro-machanical exchanges by electronic exchanges.

— Laying of underground cables in ducts.

— Pressurisation of paper core underground cables.

— Use of jelly filled PVC insulation under-ground cables.

— Use of improved DP/CT boxes (DP-Distribution point, CT-Cable termination).

— Replacement of old fault prone underground cables and worn out drop wire.

— Use of insulated drop wire with proper accessories.

— Computerisation of Fault Repair Service.

— Improved customer interface.